

## **MINUTES**

### **MONTANA SENATE 65th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**

#### **COMMITTEE ON HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION**

**Call to Order:** Chair Gordon Vance, on February 21, 2017 at 3:00 PM, in Room 405 Capitol

#### **ROLL CALL**

##### **Members Present:**

Sen. Gordon Vance, Chair (R)  
Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick, Vice Chair (R)  
Sen. Carlie Boland (D)  
Sen. Dee Brown (R)  
Sen. Edward Buttrey (R)  
Sen. Terry Gauthier (R)  
Sen. Jen Gross (D)  
Sen. JP Pomnichowski (D)  
Sen. Roger Webb (R)  
Sen. Lea Whitford (D)

**Members Excused:** None

**Members Absent:** None

**Staff Present:** Laura Sankey Keip, Legislative Branch  
Tia Stockton, Committee Secretary

**Audio Committees:** These minutes are in outline form only. They provide a list of participants and a record of official action taken by the committee. The link to the audio recording of the meeting is available on the Legislative Branch website.

##### **Committee Business Summary:**

Hearing & Date Posted: SB 241, 2/16/2017; SB 262, 2/16/2017; SB 290, 2/16/2017; SB 296, 2/16/2017

00:00:03 Chair Vance

**HEARING ON SB 290**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:01:08 Sen. Jill Cohenour (D), SD 42, opened the hearing on SB 290, Generally revise school transportation laws.

**EXHIBIT**(his38a01)

00:01:51 Sen. Pomnichowski entered the meeting.

00:02:35 Sen. Whitford entered the meeting.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

00:03:24 Joe Cohenour, representing himself

**Opponents' Testimony:**

00:06:38 Bob Vogel, Montana School Board Association

00:10:20 Mike Krout, president, Montana Association of Pupil Transportation (MAPT)

00:13:21 Sen. Webb entered the meeting.

00:14:17 Bob Gilbert, Montana School Bus Contractors Association (MSBCA)

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

00:19:28 Sen. Buttrey

00:19:45 Sen. Cohenour

00:21:03 Sen. Buttrey

00:21:18 Sen. Cohenour

00:22:22 Sen. Gross

00:23:26 Mr. Cohenour, self

00:23:54 Sen. Gross

00:24:02 Mr. Cohenour

00:24:07 Sen. Brown

00:24:36 Mr. Cohenour

00:25:19 Sen. Brown

00:25:29 Mr. Cohenour

00:25:45 Sen. Gauthier

00:26:07 Mr. Krout, MAPT

00:26:21 Sen. Gauthier

00:26:33 Mr. Krout

00:26:52 Sen. Gauthier

00:27:03 Mr. Krout

**Closing by Sponsor:**

00:27:28 Sen. Cohenour

00:28:33 Chair Vance

**HEARING ON SB 262**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:29:15 Sen. Edith (Edie) McClafferty (D), SD 38, opened the hearing on SB 262, Revise laws governing public road access.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

00:31:48 Les Castren, representing himself  
00:32:56 Nick Gevock, Montana Wildlife Federation (MWF)  
00:34:26 Dan Roper, Montana Audubon  
00:35:13 Rod Bullis, representing himself  
00:39:00 Harold Johns, president, Skyline Sportsman

**Opponents' Testimony:**

00:40:18 Abigail St. Lawrence, Rocky Mountain Stockgrowers Association (RMSA)  
00:43:29 Eric Bryson, Montana Association of Counties  
00:46:23 Nicole Rolf, Montana Farm Bureau Federation  
00:48:18 Jay Bodner, Montana Stockgrowers Association, Montana CattleWomen  
00:50:13 Dan Conn, representing himself  
00:51:43 Shelby DeMars, United Property Owners of Montana  
00:53:36 Julia Altemus, Montana Wood Products Association  
00:55:12 Michael Christianson, Montana Forest Owners Association

[EXHIBIT](#)(his38a02)

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

00:58:26 Sen. Brown  
00:59:07 Mr. Gevock, MWF  
00:59:19 Sen. Brown  
00:59:50 Mr. Gevock  
00:59:59 Sen. Gross  
01:00:40 Ms. St. Lawrence, RMSA  
01:01:54 Sen. Gross  
01:02:21 Ms. St. Lawrence

**Closing by Sponsor:**

01:03:26 Sen. McClafferty

01:04:08 Chair Vance

**HEARING ON SB 241**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

01:05:08 Sen. Edward Buttrey (R), SD 11, opened the hearing on SB 241, Generally revise commercial drivers license laws.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

01:07:36 Michele Snowberger, Motor Vehicle Division, Department of Justice (DOJ)

01:10:39 Spook Stang, Motor Carriers of Montana

**EXHIBIT**(his38a03)

01:14:11 Duane Williams, Montana Department of Transportation

01:14:37 Mark Steingruber, general manager, Lehrkind's Coca Cola

01:16:04 Steve Wade, Montana Contractors Association

01:16:32 Mike Krout, president, Montana Association of Pupil Transportation

01:17:29 Elaine Taylor, Montana Beverage Association

01:18:23 Bob Gilbert, Montana Tow Truck Association, Montana School Bus Contractors Association

01:19:12 Bob Vogel, Montana School Board Association

01:20:19 Bridger Mahlum, Montana Chamber of Commerce

01:21:01 Eric Bryson, Montana Association of Counties

01:21:19 Dennis Parman, Montana Rural Education Association

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

01:22:18 Sen. Whitford

01:23:41 Ms. Snowberger, DOJ

01:27:14 Sen. Whitford

01:27:37 Ms. Snowberger

01:28:45 Sen. Boland

01:29:16 Ms. Snowberger

01:30:01 Sen. Boland

01:30:09 Ms. Snowberger

01:30:31 Sen. Pomnichowski

01:31:16 Ms. Snowberger

01:33:40 Sen. Pomnichowski

01:34:07 Ms. Snowberger

01:34:39 Sen. Whitford

01:35:05 Sen. Buttrey

**Closing by Sponsor:**

01:35:53 Sen. Buttrey

01:37:24 Chair Vance

**HEARING ON SB 296**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

01:38:08 Sen. Edward Buttrey (R), SD 11, opened the hearing on SB 296, Revise tow truck classification standards.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

01:39:30 Bob Gilbert, Montana Tow Truck Association

01:40:58 Terry Morrison, president, Montana Tow Truck Association (MTTA)

[EXHIBIT](#)(his38a04)

01:42:54 Spence Hanser, Montana Tow Truck Association (MTTA)

01:46:47 Jim Dusenbery, representing himself

01:48:06 John Iverson, American Automobile Association Mountain West

01:48:28 Gary Becker, captain, Montana Highway Patrol (MHP)

**Opponents' Testimony:**

01:50:14 Joanne Blyton, representing herself

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

01:57:15 Sen. Gauthier

01:57:50 Mr. Becker, MHP

01:58:23 Sen. Gauthier

01:58:38 Mr. Becker

01:59:27 Sen. Gauthier

01:59:43 Mr. Becker

02:00:16 Sen. Gauthier

02:00:29 Sen. Whitford

02:01:08 Sen. Buttrey

02:01:13 Sen. Gross left the meeting.

02:01:22 Sen. Whitford

02:01:33 Mr. Hanser, MTTA

02:03:02 Sen. Brown

02:03:19 Mr. Hanser

02:03:22 Sen. Brown

02:03:27 Mr. Hanser

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02:04:50	Sen. Pomnichowski
02:05:20	Mr. Hanser
02:07:01	Sen. Pomnichowski
02:07:22	Mr. Hanser
02:08:11	Sen. Pomnichowski
02:08:36	Mr. Morrison, MTTA
02:09:26	Sen. Gauthier
02:09:54	Mr. Hanser
02:09:59	Sen. Gauthier
02:10:03	Mr. Hanser
02:10:12	Sen. Gauthier
02:10:20	Mr. Hanser

**Closing by Sponsor:**

02:10:47	Sen. Buttrey
02:12:04	Chair Vance
02:12:35	Sen. Buttrey
02:12:56	Chair Vance

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 4:54 PM

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Tia Stockton, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

**EXHIBIT**([his38aad.pdf](#))